

*BELL et al.*

*Application No. 09/830,459*

*April 19, 2005*

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please delete the abstract in its entirety and substitute the new abstract attached hereto on a separate page.

**ABSTRACT**

**ANNOUNCED SESSION CONTROL**

A method and system manages media stream connections in a media session, for example a multimedia conference, that is to take place over multicast capable links provided in networks configured for Internet Protocol operation, (i.e., the communications network known as the MBone (Internet Protocol Multicast Backbone)). The method comprises receiving a session description of a media session by way of a session announcement over a network; parsing the session description to determine appropriate media application program(s) for processing at least one media stream of the session description, and connecting the one or more selected media streams to one or more respective media application programs utilising a session control configured for managing media stream connections for the one or more media application programs.